

Notice of Oral *Ex Parte* Presentation

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

February 5, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review – Review of the Commission’s Broadcast
Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the
Telecommunications Act of 1996, MB Docket No. 02-277

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Thursday, January 30, 2003, David Goldhill, President and Chief Operating Officer of Universal Television Group, David Kissinger, President of Universal Television Productions, Matt Gerson, Senior Vice President at Vivendi Universal Entertainment, and Stewart Verdery, Senior Legislative Counsel at Vivendi Universal Entertainment, met in separate meetings with: 1) Ken Ferree, Paul Gallant, William Johnson, Royce Sherlock, Mania Baghdadi, and Judith Herman of the FCC’s Media Bureau; 2) Catherine Bohigian of FCC Commissioner Kevin Martin’s office; and 3) Susan Eid of FCC Chairman Michael Powell’s office. Universal Television Productions, which produces television programming for broadcast networks, is a subsidiary of Universal Television Group which is in turn a subsidiary of Vivendi Universal Entertainment.

In the course of these meetings, we discussed the issues confronting independent television programmers seeking to create programs for “prime time” broadcast network television, as well as the change in market dynamics since the repeal of the financial interest and syndication rules in 1993. These issues were raised with the FCC in written comments filed in the above-referenced docket by several groups, including the Coalition for Program Diversity, representing independent producers and others concerned with the decrease in the number of programs produced by independent programmers which are aired on broadcast network television. These groups have urged the FCC to consider a

variety of regulatory mandates to assist independent programmers seeking to create programs for the broadcast networks' schedules.

As an independent producer of programming for broadcast network television, Universal Television Group has witnessed the trend of broadcast networks to air an increasing percentage of affiliated or network-owned programming. Universal Television Group believes that the diversity and quality of broadcast network television programming has been diminished by this trend.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. Section 1.1206, a copy of this submission is being provided to each member of the Commission staff present at the meetings. Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions in connection with this filing.

Sincerely,

s/ C. Stewart Verdery, Jr.

C. Stewart Verdery, Jr., Esq.
Vivendi Universal Entertainment
Senior Legislative Counsel, Public
Policy

cc (by mail):
Mania Baghdadi
Catherine Bohigian
Susan Eid
Ken Ferree
Paul Gallant
Judith Herman
William Johnson
Royce Sherlock